

**VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP  
AUGUST 19, 2014 MEETING**

**RESERVOIR COMMITTEE  
Town Hall Annex, First Floor**

**In attendance:** Lisa Fredman, Martine Gougault, Jane Howard, Rachel James, Elizabeth Karpati, Stefan Miller, Michael Ratner, David White, guest Juli Brazile (new Standing Committee co-chair).

**Facilitator:** David White

**Minutes:** Elizabeth Karpati

**2014 meetings:** 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 16 Oct. 21 Nov. 18 Dec. 16.  
Town Hall Annex, First Floor Conference Room.

1. **Minutes:** Copies of the June minutes were not available for review; the minutes will be taken up at the next meeting. David distributed some informal notes of the June meeting.
2. **Work days:** Two were held since June, used for weeding, spreading mulch, grass seeding. More weeding and mulching will be needed, and we will put wooden identification markers next to some of the plants.
3. **Wasps:** Michael was stung by yellow-jackets while watering. We need to move the storage spot for the hose if this means the wasps are nesting near the current spot.
4. **Parking Lot Island plantings:** Martine will prepare a proposal for shrubs to be planted there, for approval in September, with planting in October. Along the main path to the Garden where the knotweed was removed much of the seeded grass has started to grow; DPW should be asked to mow it.
5. **Water chestnuts** have been harvested by Aquatic Control Technologies (ACT) and moved by DPW to the spillway to drain, but the water level is so high that some water is flowing over the spillway and the weeds cannot drain completely. Many water chestnuts are still floating in the Res. At Michael's suggestion we decided to harvest them manually (in canoes) on August 30, 1-4 p.m.
6. **Town Day, September 13:** Last year, making sachets was a big success. Martine will do it again. We voted \$150 for materials. David will check what items such as posters he has stored from last year. A "preparations party" is planned for Tuesday, September 9.
7. **Lowell Street area:** David brought a sketch map of this wooded corner next to the Res, which is full of invasives. Any work planned here will need approval from the Lexington Con Com. Spraying for poison ivy would have to be done by a licensed entity (DPW?). If invasives are pulled, it is necessary to add plants or mulch immediately so that no bare ground is left which would invite re-colonization by more invasives. Martine will consult with Corinna Vanderspek of the Garden Club.
8. **Trail around the Res:** David will check whether the cross-country team will be available to help spread wood chips on the trail again as it did last year,
9. **CPA (Community Preservation Act):** Ann LeRoyer (Open Space chair and member of the CPA committee) has asked us to endorse this. We reviewed the CPA material and agreed to both endorse it for the fall election and also for our endorsement to be listed on the CPA website.
10. **ACROSS Lexington:** The group has agreed to have its trail signs read "ACROSS ... in participation with Arlington" where a trail runs through Arlington lands. Also, Arlington's Great

Meadows and the northern edge of the Res, both located in Lexington, will be identified as “property of Arlington”. The Arlington Conservation Commission will be making a positive recommendation to the Board of Selectmen which has formal authority over these lands.

11. **Water drawdown:** This is the last weekend for swimming at the beach. The Menotomy Bird Club would like to have the water lowered as quickly as possible to expose mudflats for shorebirds, but this would interfere with the planned hand harvest of water chestnuts. The drawdown probably won’t happen until after the “beach party” fundraiser on September 6.
12. **Garden additions:** Martine suggested adding more natural seating: flat rocks (may be hard to get) or logs or tree stumps. Bird houses were also suggested on a pole (this elicited some opposition) or on the fence along the outflow. To be discussed at a future meeting.

### **Upcoming Dates**

Saturday, September 13, 10 am – 3 pm – **Arlington Town Day**

Tuesday, September 16, 7:30 pm – **Res committee meeting**

Sunday, September 21, 9 am – 12 noon – **Res workday**